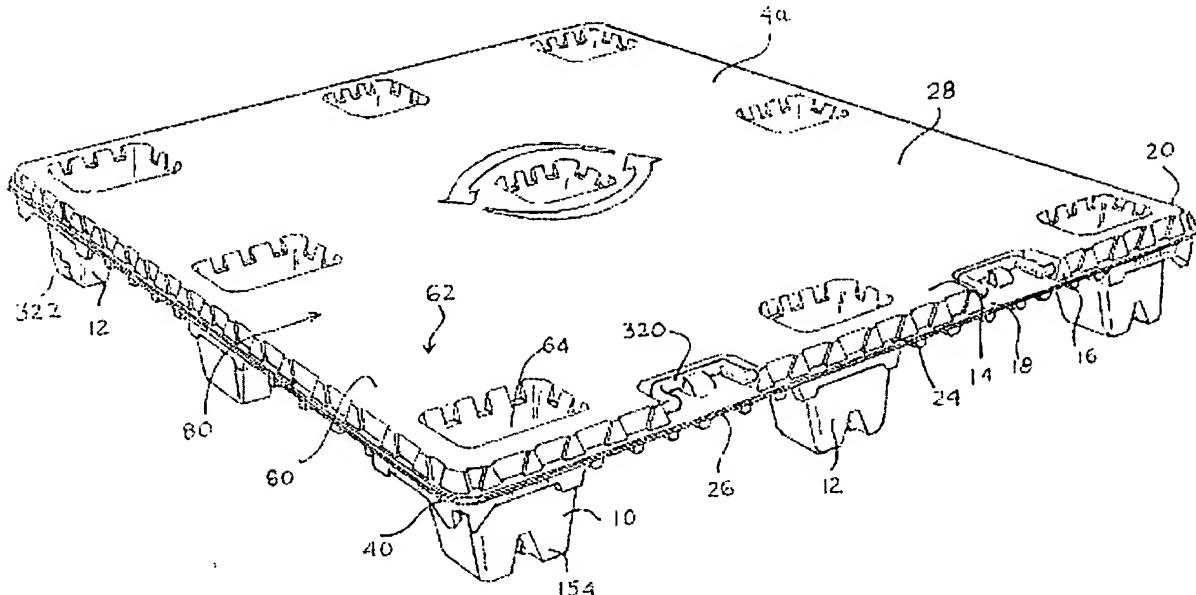


REMARKS

1, 8, 10, 13, 15-16 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

§102 Rejection

Claims 8-12, 20 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent Publication 2001/0029874 to Muirhead. A figure from Muirhead is reproduced below:



Claim 8 has been amended to recite that "the corner edges each include a rounded portion connecting the side edges to the end edges and at least one projection projecting outwardly from the rounded portion." Muirhead does not disclose a projection projecting outwardly from a rounded portion. Therefore claim 8 is not anticipated by Muirhead.

Claims 1, 13, 14, 16 and 19 have been rejected as anticipated by Liu (US 5,341,748). Claim 1 recites, "wherein at least one of the corner edges follows a generally continuous curve except for at least one projection extending outwardly relative to the generally continuous curve," which is not shown by Liu. Claim 13 recites, "wherein the corner edges each have a generally constant radius except for a portion of increased radius forming at least one projection extending outwardly from the corner edges," which is not shown by Liu.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6 and 13-19 have been rejected as obvious over Milles (US 20020148393) in view of Ishizuka (JP 2001-270,525). Even if Milles were modified in view of Ishizuka as proposed by the Examiner, Ishizuka does not disclose an upper surface "wherein at least one of the corner edges follows a generally continuous curve except for at least one projection extending outwardly relative to the generally

continuous curve." In Ishizuka, it appears that there is an undercut vertically below the generally continuous curve of the corner edge. There is no projection extending outwardly relative to the generally continuous curve," as claimed in claim 1, or "a generally constant radius except for a portion of increased radius forming at least one projection extending outwardly from the corner edges," as recited in claim 13.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 8-21 have been rejected as obvious over Apps (US 20040134390) in view of Ishizuka. Again, even if Apps were modified in view of Ishizuka it would not meet the terms of claim 1, as explained above. Further, it would not include "the corner edges each include a rounded portion connecting the side edges to the end edges and at least one projection projecting outwardly from the rounded portion," as recited in claim 8.

Applicant believes that no fees are necessary, however the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1984 for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

/John E. Carlson/

John E. Carlson, Reg. No. 37,794
Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C.
400 W. Maple Road, Ste. 350
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 988-8681

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